

SERVICE FOR THE BLIND AND PHYSICALLY HANDICAPPED

Ruth Pratt was the wealthy wife of an oil company executive who served as the Republican U.S. Representative from New York's 17th Congressional District, which included Manhattan's "Silk Stocking" district. U.S. Senator Reed Smoot from Utah, was a strict Mormon and a business leader with interests in various banking, wool manufacturing and mining enterprises. Pratt, a member of the House Committee on the Library, laid the foundation for what would later become the Pratt-Smoot Act by introducing a modest bill to appropriate \$75,000 annually to acquire and publish books for the blind. During the hearings, Helen Keller made an appearance to show her support for the bill.

A little over a year later, on March 3, 1931, the Pratt-Smoot Act established a national free library service for "adult blind residents of the United States, including the several States, Territories, insular possessions, and the District of Columbia." One hundred thousand dollars was authorized for the Library of Congress to provide books for the blind. This law also allowed the Librarian of Congress to arrange for libraries in the states to serve

as local or regional centers to help circulate the books.

In Michigan that same year, two regional libraries were established: one to serve Wayne County; the other to

provide service for the rest of the state that was housed in Saginaw under the Bureau of Social Services. It was the beginning to today's Library of Michigan's Service for the Blind and Physically Handicapped (SBPH)

"There have been many changes over the years in the patrons we serve and the services we offer," says Maggie Bacon, SBPH's supervisor. "Back in 1931, only adults who were visually impaired were served with Braille materials. In 1933 the Pratt-Smoot Act was amended to include a recorded book service. In 1952 the services to the blind were expanded to include children. Then in 1966 the service was expanded again to include all persons with physical handicaps other than blindness."

In 1959 control of the State Library for the Blind was transferred from the Bureau of Social Services to the State Board for Libraries. Four years



Machine Services Assistant Andrew Wilson oversees the maintenance of SBPH's talking book machine.

later, the Library for the Blind and Physically Handicapped transferred from Saginaw to Lansing. Subregional libraries for the blind and physically handicapped began opening around the state, including LBPHs in Grand Traverse, Washtenaw, Kent and Oakland Counties. Today, there are 2 regional and 11 subregional libraries for the blind and physically handicapped in Michigan.

Today the SBPH and the subregionals serve over 19,000 patrons, who have interesting demographics—65 percent of the patrons are 65 years or older who are usually visually impaired, a condition that occurred later in life. Four percent of the client base are children. An additional 20 percent are blind, but not from birth.

The SBPH collection is that of a medium-sized public library. The materials focus on recreational

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Access (ISSN 1051-0818) publishes information about the Library of Michigan and its activities plus other materials of interest to the Michigan library community. Please direct comments or questions to:

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THE DIRECTOR'S CHAIR

When I was a kid, not many people in my neighborhood could afford clothes dryers. On a warm spring day, you could look from back yard to back yard and see everyone's laundry hanging in the sunlight. That sunlight was actually pretty unforgiving, because under its glare, you saw everyone's secrets. Who had tattered sheets? Whose underwear had holes? Those back-yard clotheslines left little to the imagination!

Networked information on the World Wide Web is a little like the laundry hanging in someone's back yard. When you visit a web site, you see just how much attention an organization devotes to the details, both large and small. Who makes sure that everything is spelled correctly and arranged properly before it is posted? Who updates the site regularly? Who gets the facts straight?

What brought this to mind was a recent meeting of the public library cooperative directors at the Library of Michigan. Sara Behrman, the soon-to-depart director of Mideastern Michigan Library Cooperative, expressed her concerns that LM no longer required the Regions of Cooperation to verify how many records they were updating on their OCLC holdings.

Sara claimed, quite reasonably, that these records are no longer an internal issue. With the availability of WorldCat as part of **AccessMichigan** and the Serials, Periodicals and Newspapers (SPAN) database now on the web, many librarians rely on this information to make interlibrary loan requests and to send their patrons from one library to another. Outdated or misleading information left in the OCLC database means false leads, wasted staff time and frustrated patrons.

For years, the Library of Michigan has helped underwrite the establishment and development of the statewide union lists, and, acting in our unofficial role as the Library Police, we've tried to enforce certain practices. We don't have the time, the staff or the inclination to be enforcement officers any more. But we all have an interest in making sure that the records we offer the public are as accurate, timely and informative as possible. The best enforcement is the sobering realization that your library records on the web are like having the whole world looking at your laundry hanging in the yard!

George Needham
State Librarian



LIBRARY OF MICHIGAN PUBLICATIONS WIN TOP AWARDS

On Tuesday, April 7, Library of Michigan staff learned that two of their publications had won top awards from the Lansing Club of the Printing House Craftsmen. The 1995 and 1996 Annual Reports were entered in the Gallery of Superb Printing by their printer, Copy World. The publications were judged on quality of printing, binding, design and layout and first impression. Judges for this event were from Saginaw, Grand Rapids and Ohio. Out of this year's 230 entries, the 1995 Annual Report won Best of Category while the 1996 Annual Report won First Place. Congratulations to Graphics designer Marnie Childs and Information Coordinator Cindy Krueger for the impressive work they put into these publications.

materials, unlike the Library of Michigan, which is a research library. "We add over 2,000 new titles of books on tape every year," says Bacon, "and receive 8 to 25 copies of those titles." As a regional library, the SBPH is required to keep master copies of every book on tape. "We are also one of the few regionals in the country to maintain a complete Braille collection. We have a copy of every Braille title produced by NLS for this collection," Bacon points out.

What's in this unusual collection? About what you'd expect to find in any library's collection: popular fiction, including science fiction, mystery, horror, westerns and romance; or nonfiction, such as self-help, biographies, and history. Popular authors among the SBPH clientele include Ann Rice, Stephen King and Dean Koontz. "The kids really like R. L. Stine, the author of the *Goosebump* series," Bacon says. Cookbooks are available both on tape and in Braille, something Bacon notes is so popular with the patrons that library staff have to hunt the people down to get the copies back.

In addition to traditional library services, SBPH also offers the use of a variety of adaptive technology tools that make information available for patrons unable to read standard printed materials. A workstation equipped with a screen-reading program and speech synthesizer in the SBPH provides general Internet access, use of FirstSearch and Searchbank, access to the Library of Michigan III system and the SBPH online public-access catalog. A software program, ZoomText, enlarges the screen for easier reading. Two Kurzweil reading machines and 3 Alladin Rainbow Readers (closed-circuit televisions) are also available to SBPH patrons.

Another unique feature of the SBPH is that it uses volunteers to produce recorded materials that are not included in the general collection.

These volunteer-produced materials focus on Michigan and the Great Lakes area.

The SBPH's described video service offers popular videos with a description of the movie to help visually impaired viewers enjoy the video without missing crucial details of the plot and action. The service that develops these enhanced videos takes about 6 months to complete from the time the video is released. "It's a hot seller for our patrons," Bacon says. "It gives them another tool to become an active part of society."

Eleven people staff the SBPH in Lansing. They are responsible for sending and receiving anywhere between 800 and 1,200 book cassettes each week to 19,000 registered readers around the state. They also register between 25 and 30 new readers a week. In addition, they manage the stacks of cassettes and Braille material, and track and maintain over 20,000 pieces of playback equipment, estimated to be worth over \$9 million. If that weren't enough, they send over 42,000 copies of direct mail magazines to their Michigan patrons every year.

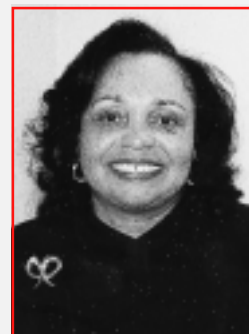
Recently, the SBPH joined forces with the Mideastern Michigan Library Cooperative in Flint to develop a new service delivery system for patrons registered to receive services from the Mideastern Michigan LBPH. The project focuses on the strengths of the participating agencies to implement new service models. This means making best use of the centralized information technology system from the Library of Michigan and allowing the Mideastern Michigan LBPH staff to continue to provide personalized service to their patrons as well as improve upon their existing local outreach programs.

If you would like more information about the Library of Michigan Service for the Blind and Physically Handicapped, please call Maggie Bacon at 1-800-992-9012 or you may email her at info@sbph.libofmich.lib.mi.us.

DPL HAS NEW ASSISTANT DIRECTOR FOR BRANCHES

Yvette Shane is the new assistant director for branches at the Detroit Public Library. She replaces James Evenhuis, who retired after thirty eight years with the library. Shane most recently headed the Youth Services Department at the Ann Arbor District Library. Prior to that, she was in charge of the Youth Department at Baldwin Public Library in Birmingham.

Shane received her undergraduate degree in sociology from Fisk University and her master degree in library science from Wayne State University, where she is also a candidate for a master of arts degree in teaching.



USF UPDATE

by Patty Curthoys

Electronic Library Development Specialist

The deadline for Form 470 applications passed on March 18. More than 40,000 schools and libraries nationwide applied for discounts from the Universal Service Fund (USF). Michigan ranked fourth out of the 50 states in number of applications with 1,700 applications (California was first, New York second and Illinois third). Up to \$625 million will be distributed this year; an additional \$2.5 billion is promised for subsequent years.

SEVENTH-GRADER HELPS COMPUTERIZE LIBRARY INVENTORY

Spending the summer in a school library is not exactly a seventh-grader's idea of a dream vacation, but that is what thirteen-year-old Katherine Wale did last year. In a gesture designed to help longtime friend, Shrine Elementary School librarian Judy Hikade, Katie Wale volunteered to computerize the library's inventory. Her dedication and thoughtfulness also earned Katie national recognition when she was named a Distinguished Finalist for the Prudential Spirit of Community Initiative.

The Prudential Insurance Company of America in partnership with the National Association of Secondary School Principals present these awards, which seek to honor young people across the United States for outstanding, self-initiated community service. Katie was one of over 1,100 students considered for the award. Katie traveled to Lansing on April 14 to meet State Senator Michael Bouchard and accept her award.

Katie decided to catalog the school library's books last summer after hearing Judy Hikade talk about the project. "I've known Mrs. Hikade all my life, . . . so I volunteered to help." Although Katie doesn't consider herself a computer whiz, her skills were more than adequate for the job. The cataloging took all summer as Katie worked one to two days each week for about five hours a day. "It was like a regular job," Katie remarked, "but it was more fun. We took lunch breaks, it was hot in the (second-floor) library."

The Shrine Academy student, who is the youngest of four, also brought her twenty-four-year-old brother, Brian, into the library when the computer wasn't working properly. Brian recently graduated from Oakland University with a degree in computer science.

Katie's Shrine Academy counselor Walt Romano noted that Katie is "a hard-working student who is always willing to go that extra mile. . . . It's great to see somebody like Katie get recognized for all the hard work she does." (From a February 19, 1998 article in the *Royal Oak Daily Tribune*)

STATE PLAN MEETINGS HAVE BEGUN

The state plan for providing federal government information to Michigan's citizens is undergoing extensive revisions in order to work well in the electronic information environment. The *Michigan Plan for the Federal Documents Depository Library System* was the first in the nation in 1982; it was last revised in 1993. It serves as a guide for the federal depository libraries in Michigan in providing documents, information and service. The current version may be read at <http://www.libofmich.lib.mi.us/publications/feddeplibbkl.html>. The working draft of the latest revision is located at <http://www.libofmich.lib.mi.us/services/mifedplan.html>.

The plan created the Michigan Council of Federal Depository Libraries to interpret and monitor it. Current members of this council are Kelly Eastwood, Northern Michigan University; Michael McDonnell, Western Michigan University; Janet Schneider, Schoolcraft College; Paula Kaczmarek, Detroit Public Library; and Ann Marie Sanders, Library of Michigan. Anne Birkam, Public Libraries of Saginaw, is the GODORT of Michigan representatives. The council is continuing to solicit remarks, requests and suggestions from the Michigan library community.

Geographic area meetings began this spring in four locations. A meeting was held on May 7 at the Hoyt Library in Saginaw. The other three meetings will be held on May 15 at Henry Ford Community College in Dearborn; May 21 at Northern Michigan University in Marquette; and June 8 at Calvin College in Grand Rapids. Librarians and patrons are invited to contact their local depository library, a member of the MCFDL or to attend one of the remaining area meetings. Further information is available from Paula Kaczmarek at the Detroit Public Library at 313-833-1025, govdoc@detroit.lib.mi.us or Ann Marie Sanders at the Library of Michigan at 517-373-9489, govdoc@libofmich.lib.mi.us.

LIBRARY ASKS TEENS FOR IDEAS

For most people, BLT refers to a sandwich of which bacon, lettuce and tomatoes are the main ingredients. At the West Bloomfield Public Library, this acronym stands for the Board of Library Teens, a newly formed advisory council made up of a dozen students in the sixth through twelfth grades. Each month these innovative young thinkers meet at the main library to discuss the ways the library can improve its services to meet the needs of young people and encourage them to visit the library.

All sorts of ideas are presented at the meetings. For example, Eli Lakritz, 11, said the library's magazine collection needs more sports magazines. Farah Majid, 13, noted that the library should add more information about the Scholastic Aptitude Tests on its web page. Lindsay Smith, 11, suggested the library "keep up with the projects the schools are doing," so materials students need to complete these assignments are available.

Adult Reference Librarian Vicki Sower and Elizabeth Shubow, who is in charge of young adult services at the Westacres Branch, work with the students during their hour-long meetings. "It's like a mini-focus group," Sower says. "We want to make teens more interested in the library."

All the BLT members said they love the library and being on the board. "I want to give some new ideas for the library," Eli said. "It's something different," adds twelve-year-old Rachel Sugar. (From a March 26, 1998 article by Greg Kowalski in the *West Bloomfield Eccentric Lake Ed.*)



BLTers with Vicki Sower. (seated far Left)

THE LOLETA FYAN RURAL LIBRARIES CONFERENCE

by Bryon Sittler

Multitype Library Specialist

The Loleta Fyan Rural Libraries Conference will be held at the Grand Traverse Resort in Acme, Michigan, April 26-28, 1999. Registration fees are \$100 to attend the entire conference and \$50 for single-day attendance. The Grand Traverse Resort offers the following conference room rates: hotel bedrooms will cost \$94 per night single/double + tax; tower bedrooms will cost \$138 per night single/double + tax.

Attendance at the conference is limited to 350 full-conference attendees and 50 one-day registrations, so make sure you register early. Registration materials will be mailed in January 1999. The registration deadline is March 25, 1999. CEUs will be offered.

The conference is funded in part with a federal Library Services and Technology Act grant, administered by the Library of Michigan and by a gift from the Library of Michigan Foundation's Loleta Fyan Fund.

A committee has been assembled of librarians from across Michigan, with representation from all library class sizes, public library cooperatives, the Library of Michigan and the Michigan Library Association. The following broad topics will be addressed during the break-out sessions—Michigan, children's and young adult services, collection development, library administration/personnel, technology and library services. Watch *Access* for more information.



NEW TECHNOLOGY PLANS TO BE REQUIRED FROM USF APPLICANTS

by George Needham

State Librarian

The Library of Michigan (LM) will issue new technology plan approval forms and implement new review procedures for the plans this summer. The new procedures will bring LM into compliance with Schools and Libraries Corporation (SLC) rules on certifying that public libraries and special libraries serving the public have technology plans when applying for Universal Service Fund (USF) discounts.

The new forms are in response to a directive issued by SLC in January (<http://www.neca.org/funds/planfnl.pdf>), and clarified in additional communications from SLC in March. The forms will be mailed to all of Michigan's public libraries, public library cooperatives, and those special libraries that filed technology plans for 1998. The forms will also be available on the LM web site (<http://www.libofmich.lib.mi.us>).

SLC requires that each applicant present a technology plan that addresses the following five points:

- A. Clearly enunciated goals and realistic strategies for using telecommunications and information services to improve library services;
- B. A professional development strategy to ensure that staff know how to use these technologies to improve library service;
- C. Assessment of telecommunication services, hardware, software and other services needed to improve library services;
- D. A sufficient budget for acquiring and maintaining the hardware, the software, continuing staff development and the telecommunications services needed to sustain these services; and
- E. A procedure for evaluating the library's progress toward its goals and to make changes as needed.

The Library of Michigan will ask two additional questions regarding the applicant library's mission and plans for using the money saved due to USF discounts. LM will also ask libraries to update their plans annually as part of the state aid application form.

It is important to note that there are no right or wrong answers in completing the technology plan approval form. Each library should review its own environment, strengths and weaknesses, community support and needs, and then complete the form as appropriate. The only negative answers would be no answers or answers that don't address the questions asked.

Applicants may either use the new form or file a copy of the applicant's own technology plan, provided that the plan addresses the seven points listed above. LM staff will review the plans and submit them to the state librarian for approval. If any questions are not answered or if the answers are inconclusive, the applicant may be contacted for further information.

Any library that intends to apply for USF discounts during 1999 must have a new technology plan on file with LM before it files its Form 486 with SLC. Form 486 informs SLC that you are receiving services to be discounted and that SLC should release funds to your vendor. All technology plans that have been filed with the Library of Michigan will expire at the end of this year. Libraries that have not yet filed their technology plans for 1998 may continue to use the old forms, which were distributed to public libraries in the summer of 1997. Questions about the new form or the Universal Service Fund should be directed to Patty Curthoys at 517-373-4466 or you may email her at curthoys@libofmich.lib.mi.us.

1998 MILLAGE UPDATE

by Jeff Johnson

Deputy State Librarian

This year Michigani-ans will vote on a number of public library plans for the future, as ballot questions for bonding authority and for operating millage increases and renewals. The Library of Michigan encourages librarians and cooperative directors to report upcoming ballot questions as well as election-day results, so we may share the statewide trends with our readers.

Allendale Township voters approved an \$850,000 bond issue on April 21, giving the green light for construction to begin on a new 6,400-square-foot library in the spring of 1999 on land that was donated to the library in 1995. A 10-year schedule will keep the rate below 0.75 mill per year.

In a special election on May 5 voters approved two funding questions proposed by the Ypsilanti District Library. The first question requested a 0.75 mill increase in the operating millage to bring the current 0.85 rate up to a total of 1.6 mills in perpetuity. The second question sought approval for \$17,635,000 in bonds to be repaid by a one mill levy for 20 years, with the proceeds dedicated to renovating the City of Ypsilanti library building, and to constructing a new 60,000-square-foot library facility in Ypsilanti Township. Voters authorized a combined levy of 2.6 mills when both proposals were approved.

The newly established Portage District Library in Kalamazoo County will place its first millage request before the voters on June 8. The new district library's provisional board placed the request for 1.5 mills for library operations on the ballot. Since the new district succeeds the former Portage City Library, the millage requested will be equivalent to a continuation of the current levy for all city residents. For voters inside the new library district, but outside the city, the millage will be a new tax. This new

levy would apply to portions of Texas and Pavilion townships. If the millage fails the district library will be disbanded and the library will return to its former status as a city library.

Also on the ballot in the June 8 school election are two questions to fund the new Sandusky District Library in Port Sanilac. Formerly the Sanilac Township Library, the new district library serves both the township and the Carsonville-Port Sanilac School District residents. In earlier years, when operating as the township library, a 1955 township millage initially provided 0.4 mills for operations, but Headlee rollbacks over time reduced the actual rate to 0.2761 last year. The new district library board is seeking voter approval of a one mill charter for operations, of which they intend to levy only 0.6 mill initially, as well as approval for a second 0.6 mill levy to repay \$925,000 in construction bonds over 15 years. If both are approved, the total levy will be 1.2 mills. Both approvals are necessary for the new district library to proceed. The bond funding will support construction of a new \$1.2 million library of 7,600 square feet which will triple the space available in the old building. Voter refusal to fund the new district library would force it to dissolve and return to the previous structure.

The Clinton-Macomb District Library in Macomb County will seek a one-mill increase in the operating millage in August. Plans call for a variety of improvements if funding is obtained, including satellite library locations in the Clintondale area and in the northern section of Macomb Township.

The Bay County Library System, a county library headquartered in Bay City, will seek renewal of its one mill levy for operations in the August 4 primary election to support the system's five library locations and renovate three (Sage, South Side and



Auburn). In addition, a new city library is planned to replace the Bay City Branch Library, and a new Pinconning branch library would be built. Both facilities were downsized from plans proposed in 1995. The library board and staff worked intensively to revise the plans before returning to the voters with this reduced request

based on the current funding level.

In Hillsdale County the Camden Township Library Board has sought the support of the township board for a library millage vote in August. The township trustees asked that the library board survey the voters and determine the level of public support before bringing the millage request to them.

Close cooperation among the six public libraries in Ionia County paid off in January, when the county commissioners voted unanimously to place a county-wide library millage on the August ballot. The levy of one mill for 20 years is intended to fund new technology and more space in the libraries, as well as expanded collections and hours of service. If the millage is approved, the libraries with current local millages will forego those taxes in exchange for a share of the new millage. Libraries with smaller millages now include the Hall-Fowler Memorial (city) Library in Ionia and the Lake Odessa Community (district) Library. Hall-Fowler Library Board President Beth Jungel presented the proposal to the county commissioners at their meeting in January to explain that the county-wide millage would be more stable than the income from penal fines in the county, while it also had the advantage of taxing all residents equally, which would take account of the significant population growth outside the limits of villages and cities. The six library directors also attended the meeting with the commissioners, and provided details of the planned improvements.

The six libraries making up the Ionia County Library Association that proposed the millage are located in Belding, Ionia, Portland, Lyons, Saranac and Lake Odessa.

A similar joint approach to local funding is being discussed by supporters of the libraries serving Iosco and Arenac Counties. The nine libraries are all branches of the Iosco-Arenac District Library, which is headquartered in Tawas City. The August 1998 ballot is the preferred time to present the question to the voters. The success of the proposed millage may be critical for the Robert J. Parks Public Library in Oscoda, which is located in the former library of the deactivated Wurtsmith Air Force Base. The current operating agreement between the district library, Oscoda and AuSable Townships, and a partnership represented by the Alpena Community College funds the Oscoda library's operation. That agreement is scheduled to expire on June 30, so other fiscal arrangements will need to be made if the proposed two-county millage does not win approval.

The White Lake Township Library in Oakland County is holding a millage election for an increase of 0.25 mill for operations. A study committee reported to the library board in April as to whether or not to proceed with a millage request on the August ballot. Two previous funding requests, for a 0.76 mill increase and for bond funds for a new facility, were both rejected by voters in October 1997.

Also slated for the August 4 primary election is the one-mill levy in perpetuity proposed to fund the new Blue Water District Library, which serves St. Clair County. Currently supported by a \$1 million county appropriation, the district library needs the millage to fund future operations. A special four-year, half-mill tax for library technology improvements will expire this year. The new 1.0 mill levy will raise an estimated \$3.5 million each year. According to press reports, the Blue

Water District Library's millage picture has been complicated by early speculation as to whether the county should reallocate the anticipated \$1 million general fund savings if the millage is approved, or if that amount should be returned to the taxpayers once it is no longer needed to support the library.

The Wyoming Branch of the Kent District Library will be upgraded if a proposed enhancement millage is approved by residents of the City of Wyoming in August. A 27,500-square-foot expansion of the library has been proposed, using city-owned property adjacent to the present facility. A total of \$4.5 million will be requested on the August ballot, to be repaid by a levy of 0.275 mills for 20 years. A similar request for a \$4 million bond sale was rejected in 1993.

ACCORDING TO PRESS REPORTS, THE BLUE WATER DISTRICT LIBRARY'S MILLAGE PICTURE HAS BEEN COMPLICATED BY EARLY SPECULATION AS TO WHETHER THE COUNTY SHOULD REALLOCATE THE ANTICIPATED \$1 MILLION GENERAL FUND SAVINGS IF THE MILLAGE IS APPROVED, OR IF THAT AMOUNT SHOULD BE RETURNED TO THE TAXPAYERS ONCE IT IS NO LONGER NEEDED TO SUPPORT THE LIBRARY.

Shiawassee County's August ballot will also include a millage question for library funding in some or all of the eight local units of government served by the Shiawassee County Library. At its April 1 meeting, the Perry Township Board agreed to place a request for 0.5 mill to support the Edna C. Bentley Memorial (city) Library in Perry and the county library on the August primary ballot. The proposed two-year millage would generate an estimated \$27,011 in Perry Township in the first year.

Other participating townships are also considering the request for a millage to support the Shiawassee County Library.

The Farmington Community Library is also planning to present a millage proposal to the voters at the August primary election. Funding is needed to pay for operations, to expand the overcrowded Farmington Hills main library and to refurbish the equally stressed Farmington branch. Use of both facilities has continued to increase. The fifteen-year bond for the \$ 11.7 million needed to fund the project was requested following the completion of a detailed cost analysis. The expansion will cost \$ 8.8 million with another \$2.4 million for related renovation work. The Farmington branch project is estimated at an additional \$1.02 million. The funding question will be presented to voters in both Farmington Hills and Farmington, which together make up the library's service area. Those voters rejected library millage proposals by small margins in 1989 and in 1993. The August ballot proposal is based on new plans for a 34,000-square-foot expansion of the existing library in Farmington Hills, since public opposition to the earlier millage requests was reported to be based on resistance to siting the proposed new library away from the present popular location. Two hundred and fourteen more parking spaces will be available at the main library if the project is approved.

Looking ahead to November, the Galien Township Library in Berrien County will seek restoration of their operating millage to the full 0.3 mill originally approved by local voters. Under the terms of the Headlee Amendment to the Michigan Constitution, the library's millage was rolled back to its current rate of 0.19 mill. After losing nearly one-third of its millage, the library board approached the township board with a request to restore the millage level as part of an overall planning process for the library (compiled from press reports and newspaper articles).

LIBRARIES' NET ASSET: PROVIDING ACCESS TO THE INTERNET

On Friday, June 26, the Library of Michigan will host a conference about the Internet in the Michigan Library and Historical Center Forum in Lansing. This conference is designed to address the complex issues librarians face when they provide Internet access to their communities. Provided as an installment of the continuing Internet training by the Library of Michigan, this day-long conference is designed for the 1997 LSCA Title I and Title III Statewide Internet Dial Access subgrant program recipients. This conference is funded by the Library Services and Construction Act, which is administered by the Library of Michigan.

The program includes a keynote address to be delivered by James Duby, JD. Duby's remarks will focus on copyright in the electronic age and its implications for library service.

Following the keynote address, Andrew Mutch of the Northville District Library will discuss the different types of Internet filtering software as well as their capabilities. Other topics to be addressed include: Library Policy Issues for Internet Access, Beyond Reference . . . The Internet in Libraries and Hidden Gems in MEL. Designed primarily for 1997 LSCA funded Statewide Internet Dial Access subgrantees, the concluding session will provide an orientation to technical security issues for public access workstations.

Please contact Jenny Sipe at 517-373-1580 to register. Advance registration is required; registration forms will be mailed to the 1997 Statewide Internet Dial Access subgrant program recipients. If you have any questions or would like to attend, please contact Anne Donohue at 517-373-5508 or you may email her at adonohue@libofmich.lib.mi.us.

USF WINDOW CLOSED APRIL 15

At midnight on April 15, 1998, the Schools and Libraries Corporation (SLC) closed its 75-day window for applications for the Universal Service Fund discount program. All libraries and schools that submitted complete Form 471 applications by the deadline will be treated with equal priority for the 1998 funding cycle. Unless all funds are committed to applicants who filed during the window period, the SLC will continue to accept applications from qualified libraries and schools that wish to receive discounts on their telecommunications, Internet and internal connections costs until either the end of the calendar year or when funding for this year is committed, whichever comes first.

The Federal Communications Commission dedicated \$625 million in funding for the first six months of 1998. The commission is expected to rule in the next two months on the funding level for the remainder of the year. The SLC does not yet know the total amount of funding requisitioned in the applications received during the window period.

The next round of funding applications, to fund discounts for the 1999 calendar year, will begin on July 1, 1998. It is not yet clear whether there will be a window period for applicants in July, similar to the one just completed. Additional information on the application process is available from the SLC at <http://www.slcfund.org> and from the ALA Office for Information Policy at <http://www.ala.org/oitp/getdisc.html>.

CLOWNING AROUND AT THE LIBRARY

One of the things you **don't** expect to see at a library is a clown. But the Livonia Civic Center Library hosted a whole group of clowns at its recent Friends of the Livonia Libraries book sale and Livonia's Winterfest. The group, Clowns Around Redford, made its tenth annual visit to the library and played to a full house.

Organizer Barry DeChant, who has been clowning around for over twenty two years, produced and directed the well-received show, which packed the library auditorium. "I tell my students something happens when you put the clown makeup on," DeChant, also known as Bonzo, remarked. "I can't explain what it is. But you change." The group includes clowns from the Livonia area and as far away as Lansing, Clarkston, Oxford and areas west of Ann Arbor. They range in age from sixteen to one member who's closing in on eighty years. The Livonia event featured twenty three clowns, including a janitor clown who tied all the acts together. Work for the show began last November.

The February book sale earned \$24,498.75, which all goes to library programs. "This was the best sale ever," said Friends president Harriet Larson.



Some of the members of Clowns Around Redford



WHY TRUSTEES TRAINING?

Trustee
Corner

Library trustees (sometimes called directors because they comprise the library's board of directors) are some of the most important volunteers for any library. Whether elected by the library service area's general population or appointed by a municipal official, library trustees are responsible for the general governance of the public library. They make policies to oversee the everyday operation of the library facility, determine the library's funding, provide adequate staff and materials, and construct or preserve the library building. All actions must be completed in accordance with both state and federal laws, and within generally accepted accounting and ethical principles. The task can be daunting!

Many volunteers become library trustees, armed with only a vague notion of assuming a public position that is subject to public accountability and scrutiny, and besieged by conflicting expectations and demands. Many library board trustees have prior experience in the private nonprofit sector. They often know how to conduct meetings, work with others on the board and in committees, and report to the members of the organization, but sometimes have little acquaintance with the requirements of running a public board. Such requirements include, among others, the Open Meetings Act, the Freedom of Information Act and the Uniform Budgeting and Accounting Act. The same predicament is often true for trustees recruited from the business sector. The valuable perspective that these trustees bring to the library board is often lost when there is confusion about the operation of a public agency and in the face of public demands and expectations.

In addition to the statutory requirements placed on library trustees, trustees are also expected to be involved in strategic planning, public relations, communication with government officials and advocacy for better library services. It is difficult to reach this second tier of responsibility if the trustees are unsure of the basics requirements of governing the library. Unless they know what questions to ask, library trustees will not even make the best use of retained professional assistance in the areas of law and accounting.

Where do trustees turn for help? Fortunately, there are resources available for their education and assistance. The Michigan library cooperatives throughout the state offer a variety of training opportunities for both librarians and trustees. Most entail a modest cost and are planned specifically to address library concerns. Many local organizations hold training sessions for various public officials or members of boards. While these opportunities may not be specifically oriented to the library trustee, much valuable basic information may be gleaned on everything from the Open Meetings Act to operating budgets.

The Trustees Roundtable of the Michigan Library Association is currently working with library cooperatives to offer training specifically designed to address the needs of library trustees. In conjunction with the Library of Michigan staff, these workshops are held on Saturdays or in the evening at little or no cost to the participants. Check with your library cooperative for a schedule of these offerings in a location convenient for your attendance.

Professional conferences often include sessions of particular interest to trustees. The Michigan Library Association will offer a one-day preconference for trustees during its annual conference in October. Additional sessions geared to library trustees will be offered throughout the entire conference.

Make plans now to take advantage of these sessions. Alternatively, speak to your library cooperative director or staff at the Library of Michigan about training opportunities. Trustees are too important a resource to waste!

Ellen Richardson
Library Law Specialist

APPLY NOW FOR FYAN SCHOLARSHIP

The Loleta Fyan Scholarship Fund, a part of the Library of Michigan



Foundation, is currently accepting applications for scholarships of up to \$300. This fund was established to assist Michigan's public librarians and library staff in developing their skills through individually determined and locally accessible continuing education opportunities. The scholarships are available to all full- and part-time, paid library staff of Class I, II, III and IV libraries.

These scholarships are awarded three times each year and may be used to cover course fees and materials only. The funds may be used for training at community colleges, Internet training centers, private training centers, the Michigan Library Consortium or other reputable educational organizations. Travel expenses are not eligible. Beginning November 1, March 1 and July 1 of each year, \$1,500 will be available.

Applicants must have the library they work for endorse them and their library director must sign the application. Only one application per applicant will be accepted every two-year period. Applications will be reviewed by the Library of Michigan Library Development team; award decisions will be mailed by December 1, April 1 and August 1.

To obtain an application or more information about the Loleta Fyan Scholarship Fund, contact Patty Curthoys at 517-373-4466 or you may email her at curthoys@libofmichi.lib.mi.us.

NEW STUDY SHOWS TREMENDOUS GROWTH IN USE OF LIBRARIES FOR INTERNET ACCESS

The use of public libraries for Internet access has increased by more than 500 percent since 1996, according to the second annual MCI LibraryLINK study. The study also showed that public libraries are the most common alternative point for Internet access.

According to the press release, the number of people who accessed the Internet from their public library increased 86 percent since January 1997. While home, work and school remained the most common places for people to access the Internet, 16 percent of the respondents in the MCI study had accessed the Internet through an alternative access point. Nearly half of those used the public library as their alternative access point. MCI's data suggests that by the year 2000 that number will nearly double.



NEW HAMPSHIRE STORYTELLER RETURNS TO MICHIGAN FOR WHIRLWIND TOUR

New Hampshire storyteller, Papa Joe, will return to Michigan this year when he visits the Ann Arbor Public Library on July 20 at 7:00 p.m. He will also perform for the Sterling Heights Summer Reading Club and the Mount Clemens Public Library on July 22-24. Previous visits by Papa Joe to the Michigan Storytelling Festival in Flint convinced many that this man is a gem of a storyteller.

Joseph "Papa Joe" Philip Gaudet owns Papa Joe's Traveling Storytelling Show®, which recognizes communities are the most viable access for educating people. Storytelling is often the best tool for teaching because it strengthens imagination, memory, and communication. Papa Joe works with sign translators and therapists to create programming for all people. Children are particularly fond of Papa Joe's stories and storytelling techniques.

For more information about attending one of these creative, entertaining events, contact the Ann Arbor District Library at 313-327-4200, the Mount Clemens Public Library at 810-469-6200 or call Papa Joe at 1-800-466-6835. You may also want to visit Papa Joe's web site at <http://www.tiac.net/users/papajoe> for information on this interesting artist and the art of storytelling.

OPTIONAL GRID AVAILABLE FOR CALCULATING PRE-DISCOUNT COSTS

The Schools and Libraries Corporation now has available an optional pre-discount cost calculation grid to help Universal Service Fund (USF) applicants complete Form 471, Block 5, items 15 and 16. The completed grid may also be used as the attachment called for in item 17 of Form 471. The SLC encourages applicants to consider using this grid as a tool for effectively and efficiently completing their Form 471s.

The grid was created in the Microsoft Excel format and its instructions may be found at the SLC web page at <http://www.slcfund.org>. Applicants may print out the grid and fill it in on paper or open it, complete it electronically and then print out to attach to their Form 471. If you have questions about the grid, please call 1-888-203-8100 or send an email to question@slcfund.org.

***The Belting Public Library recently received a \$500 grant from the Ionia County Community Foundation to help its audio book collection. In March Foundation Chairman Brad Kessel presented the check to Library Director Toni Jagger and Library Board President Michael Bolton. "Books on tape reach a wide spectrum of people, and there's an increased demand for this type of material," said Jagger, who wrote the grant. She added that the grant will boost the library's growing collection of audio books.

***The Hoyt Main Library in Saginaw, Michigan, was awarded the first PRIDE Achievement Award for the



Renovation of a Historical Site. PRIDE, a local civic improvement group, created the historical renovation award to commemorate the Hoyt Main Library renovation and encourage other local institutions to renovate their buildings as well.

Originally constructed in 1887-1890 with substantial additions in 1920 and 1960, the library is considered an excellent example of Richardsonian Romanesque architecture. The \$3.5 million renovation project preserved the library building's historic architectural integrity while revitalizing it to meet today's needs. Over 25 percent of the funding for the project was raised from private sources including

local foundations and over 450 individuals. Usage has nearly doubled since the renovated library had its grand reopening in November 1997.



***The Van Buren District Library in Decatur named Debby Stassek, information services librarian, as its 1997 Library Employee of the Year. She was honored at the library's eleventh annual recognition luncheon held last December 1997 at the Webster Memorial Library.

Library director David Tate presented Stassek with a certificate of appreciation and the Friends of the Van Buren District Library president Corinne Wade gave her a \$100 check. Stassek, employed by the district library since 1985, currently serves as the acquisitions librarian in charge of ordering all adult books for the library system. She also serves as the primary reference librarian, assisting with some of the more difficult reference questions. A third responsibility includes resolving computer problems and glitches, a job that takes her to all of the branch facilities, fixing hardware and software problems as needed. Tate commended Stassek's work with the Internet users group, saying, "Debby has

shown great leadership with the Internet group. She has built up a core group of users who show up at monthly meetings, not only to learn but to share what they know with each other."

***Cass City's Rawson Memorial Library recently received a legacy from longtime businesswoman and library champion, Esther McCullough. The \$300,000-plus bequest has been placed in an endowment fund so that the proceeds from the invested principle will fund library operations. Because of the generous gift, the renovated and expanded library will not require a tax increase. The endowment fund will generate more than \$20,000 for library operation expenses. "We are so blessed by Esther's generosity," said Library Director Barbara J. Hutchinson. A ceremony to honor McCullough is scheduled for May 17, 1998.

***The Detroit Public Library has been awarded a Gates Library Foundation grant of \$164,000 to help bring computer and Internet access to library users. The monies will be used to open Internet Training Labs at the Bowen, Duffield and Franklin branch libraries. The DPL opened an Internet Training Lab last year at the main library with assistance from a \$100,000 Library Services and Construction Act (LSCA) grant and a \$500,000 contribution in software from Microsoft.

The new grant will bring the number of branch library Internet labs to four.



***The Marshall District Library opened the doors to its new residence on April 6 in what is considered one of the best spots in town. Located in a totally renovated supermarket building, the library is now one block off the "main drag." Library staff and patrons celebrated with a grand reopening on April 19. Included in the many new features found at the library's new building at 124 West Green Street in Marshall are computer access to the Internet; a new information desk set up in the middle of the library for easier access by all patrons with a separate desk for checkout and returns; a new drive-up return window on the alley side of the building; a lounge area for reading and two small study rooms; a meeting room that will accommodate up to 50 people; and a children's meeting room. "This is going to be a great library for the district," said State Librarian George Needham, who attended the reopening ceremonies.

MARSHALL DISTRICT LIBRARY



MOST MICHIGAN RESIDENTS LACK WILLS

Sixty-two percent of Michigan adults lack wills and of the minority that have them, only 15 percent have set aside something for charity, according to a Michigan State University poll. Fewer than one in six people who have wills include charitable gifts in them, the poll found. By contrast, 81 percent of people say they regularly give to charity in other ways.

"That means we have our work cut out for us," said attorney Kay Felt of Leave a Legacy Southeast Michigan, which promotes charitable gifts in wills.

The amount of money that is passed on through inheritance is mind-boggling, Nathaniel Warshay, director of resource development for Travelers Aid Society of Detroit, said Friday.

In the next 20 years \$7 trillion will pass from one generation to the next through inheritance, said Warshay, whose group helps the homeless. "People who are concerned with about the future of nonprofit organizations should consider them in their wills and estate planning, to ensure that their work continues," he said.

As might be expected, the older people get, the more likely they are to have wills, the poll found. Of those 18 to 29 years old, 13 percent said they had wills, while 35 percent of those ages 40 to 49 did and 60 percent of those age 60 or older said they had them, the poll said. Also, those with more money were more likely to have wills than those with less, it said.

Fifteen percent of those with annual incomes of less than \$15,000 said they had wills, compared with 28 percent of those earning \$40,000 to \$49,999 and 70 percent of those earning \$110,000 or more a year.

The poll found that whites were nearly twice as likely as blacks to have wills—40 percent versus 21 percent—while Protestants and Catholics were equally likely to have them—38 percent. Of those without wills, 45 percent said they intended to draft them within a year. (Reprinted with permission from the Associated Press.)



GATHERING INFORMATION FOR YOUR WILL

Getting the necessary personal and financial information together before talking to an attorney about your will saves time and money. The Library of Michigan Foundation has a free booklet, titled/ Gathering Information about Your Will, which takes you step by step through the process of gathering everything you and your lawyer will need to write a will that provides for the future of your family and your favorite charitable organizations. Please write to Jackie Payne at the Library of Michigan Foundation, P. O. box 30177, Lansing, MI 48909 or telephone 517-373-1297. Payne's email address is: jpayne@libofmich.lib.mi.us. Single copies of this booklet are free; multiple copies are available at \$1 each.

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